

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS

A METHOD OF JUDGING FOWLS FOR EGG PRODUCTION

The following method of judging fowls for egg production was formulated at the judging school held at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., July 1-4, 1918, and was subsequently approved by the American Association of Poultry Inspectors and Investigators. The characters discussed deal especially with the current year's production but it should be borne in mind that a high producer one year, is, generally speaking, a high producer in all other years.

Health. In order to lay well a bird must have a sound body. As a first consideration a bird must be vigorous and healthy if it is to be able to lay well. Vigor and health are shown by a bright, clear eye, a well set body, a comparatively active disposition and a good circulation.

Defects. Further, the bird must be free from physical defects such as crooked beak, excessively long toes, nails, eyelids that overhang so that the bird cannot see well, scaly leg, or anything else that would keep the bird from seeing or getting an abundance of food.

Color or pigmentation changes should be observed by daylight. A laying fowl uses up the surplus fat in the body, especially it removes the fat from the skin. In yellow skinned breeds this loss of fat can readily be seen by the loss of the yellow color. The different parts of the body tend to become white, according to the amount of fat stored in the body and the amount of circulation of blood through that part. The changes occur in the following order.

Vent. The vent changes very quickly with egg production so that a white or pink vent on a yellow skinned bird generally means that the bird is laying, while a yellow vent means a bird is not laying. It should be recognized that all yellow color changes are dependent on the fatness of the skin, and size of bird. A heavy bird fed on an abundance of green feed or other material that will color the fat deep yellow will not bleach out nearly as quickly as a smaller or paler colored bird.

Eyering and Earlobes. The eyering, that is, the inner edges of the eyelids, bleach out a trifle slower than the vent. The earlobes on Leghorns and Anconas bleach out a little slower than the eyering, so that a bleached earlobe means a little longer or greater production than a bleached vent or eyelid.

Beak. The color goes out of the beak beginning at the base and gradually disappears until it finally leaves the front part of the upper beak. The lower beak bleaches faster than the upper but may be used where the upper is obscured by horn or blood. On the average colored, yellow skinned bird, a bleached beak means heavy production for at least the past four to six weeks.

Shanks. The shanks are the slowest to bleach out and hence indicate a much longer period of production than the other parts. The yellow color goes out from the scales on the front of the shanks first and finally from the scales on the rear. The

length of time that a hen has been molting or has stopped laying can be determined by the molting of the primary feathers. It takes about six weeks to completely renew the primary feathers next to the avial feathers and an additional two weeks for each subsequent primary to be renewed.

A good layer is more active and nervous and yet more easily handled than a poor layer. A high layer shows more friendliness and yet elusiveness than a poor layer. A low producer is shy and stays on the edge of the flock and will squawk when caught.

LICE ON HOGS.

The presence of lice on hogs is quite common and the trouble caused by them in many cases is serious. Ignorance of their presence is no excuse for failure to control them as the species infesting hogs is the largest and most common of all lice found on domestic animals. Hog lice are nearly a quarter of an inch long when full grown. They seem to be a creation of domestication as the primitive wild hog was not afflicted with them. They are blood sucking parasites which multiply rapidly and act as a serious drain upon the hog unless checked, especially are they harmful to sucking or young pigs. The favorite points of attack are the under surface of the body, the neck and inside the thighs. The lice may be seen traveling among the bristles, particularly at the points just mentioned. The eggs or "nits" are small, white oval bodies and, by close observation, may be seen attached to the bristles. Disinfectants as a rule do not destroy the vitality of these eggs. Therefore, a second or third application may be necessary to free hogs from lice.

Although lice may not be the direct cause of death, still their presence lowers the vitality of the hog and predisposes him to attack from infectious diseases. In preventing an outbreak of cholera or any other infectious disease of hogs it is especially desirable to have the animals in as good physical condition as is possible, and of course this is necessary for most rapid and economical fattening.

Hogs infested with lice usually have rough hair, an irritated skin, are restless, and show an inclination to rub against posts and other convenient objects. It is by means of direct contact or by contact with infected bedding or quarters that this pest is transmitted from one animal to another. This makes it advisable to examine all newly purchased stock for lice and skin diseases before turning them in with the rest of the herd.

Numerous treatments are suggested for destroying lice, some of which are very simple and effective. Dipping in some of the coal-tar stock dips or a two per cent. (2 parts creolin to 98 parts water) creolin solution is probably the most satisfactory method where large herds are to be treated. To free hogs from lice they should be dipped two or more times at intervals of six to eight days. The sleeping quarters should be thoroughly disinfected at the time of dipping. If only a few hogs are to be treated and a dipping vat is not available the disinfectant may be applied with a spray pump or by the use of an old brush or broom. In either case it should be done thoroughly.

Coal oil is very effective, but is apt to blister and, if used, should be applied lightly. Crude petroleum is also recommended by some; it is not very expensive, does not blister, and is lasting in its effects. It is more effective for mange than the ordinary stock dips. The use of crude oil serves not only for destroying lice but also in softening the skin and making the hair glossy. It is considered good practice to keep oil where hogs can oil themselves from time to time. This may be done cheaply by placing a post in the pen, wrapping it with an old gunny sack or piece of burlap and saturating occasionally with oil.—D. G. Sullins, Agent in Animal Husbandry, Connecticut Agricultural College.

VELVET BEANS FOR FATTENING CATTLE.

Corn silage and velvet beans are said to form a satisfactory ration for fattening steers for market. This is the result of feeding experiments just completed at the United States Department of Agriculture farm at Beltsville, Maryland.

Other points brought out by the tests indicate that velvet beans compare favorably with alfalfa in producing profitable gains when the beans are the sole concentrate of the ration; that it is more profitable to feed soaked beans than it is to grind them; and that more beans were eaten if soaked before they are fed than if they are fed dry.

VEGETABLE PROTEIN FOR CHICKENS.

Among the poultry experiments now being conducted on the Government farm at Beltsville, Md., are a number of feeding tests in which the vegetable protein is being compared with beef scrap. One pen of chickens fed a mash containing 20 per cent. beef scrap produced in live and one-half months an average of 33 eggs per hen. Another pen fed on mash consisting of 10 per cent. peanut meal and 10 per cent. beef scrap produced an average of 52.4 eggs per hen during the same period. The best result was obtained when the mash consisted of 10 per cent. soy-bean meal and 10 per cent. beef scrap averaged 44.4 eggs for the period. In other pens containing meal and peanut meal the mash was fed as a substitute for beef scrap with the result that the hens produced a fair egg yield, though not as high as the hens in the first pen mentioned.

BIG CROPS MEAN LESS LABOR.

The farmer is now called upon as never before to bring his soil to its maximum yielding capacity. He must seek the most economical means of attaining this end. He should plan not alone for this year but for years to come, for permanent agriculture should be his aim. He must both build up and maintain the productivity of the soil. He must use the land, not abuse it. The aim should be to build up the soil now under cultivation. When this is done it is time to look to idle land. Remember that it requires less labor to produce 40 bushels of wheat on one acre than on two.—Professor J. W. White, Pennsylvania Exp. Station.

AMERICA MUST RESTOCK THE WORLD.

A census of cattle in France reveals a decrease of 17 per cent. in beef animals; 28 per cent. in sheep; and 40 per cent. in hogs since December 31st, 1913. Italy has suffered a loss of 21 per cent. horse, 13 per cent. mules and 8 per cent. swine. No one can even guess what the decrease in Germany, Austria and Russia has been, but it must be enormous. Even in the neutral countries the decrease has been marked, due to increased demands for export. According to a reliable estimate the decrease of livestock in all of Europe is equal to one-half the amount of livestock in America today. This estimate places the loss of 130 million head. These figures simply go to show the need of conserving and increasing our own breeding stock against the time when America will have to restock the most of the civilized world.

A Parisian has invented roller skates propelled by one-quarter horsepower gasoline motors, the fuel tank being carried on the wearer's belt.

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Specials for Labor Day

While our Fall stock is by no means complete we are showing some very attractive garments in the new Advance Models and invite our patrons to look them over. As usual you will find styles up to the standard and some very extraordinary values.

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BRIGADIER GENERAL BUCK LED HIS TROOPS IN BATTLE

Washington, Aug. 27.—Distinguished Service Crosses have been awarded to four officers and seven enlisted men of the American expeditionary forces in France by General Pershing for acts of gallantry.

The names of the men honored, announced tonight by the war department, follow: Brigadier General B. B. Buck, Captain Edward J. Moehan, Infantry.

First Lieutenant Harry C. Barnes, Infantry. Sergeant John U. E. Hoppe, Infantry.

Corporal John J. Lott, Infantry. Private Andy Younger, Infantry. Private Edward G. Fenwick, Infantry.

Private George J. Shively, U. S. army. Private Anthony Dogestino, Infantry. Private Grossley Holroyd, Infantry.

Brigadier General Buck is the highest officer thus far to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. At the outbreak of the war he was serving as lieutenant colonel in the Ninth Infantry, regular army. His citation reads: "Before and during the attack of Berry-le-Sec, France, July 21, 1918, he displayed conspicuous gallantry and heroic leadership of his command. When most of the officers of his brigade had fallen, General Buck, with contempt of personal danger, in spite of heavy artillery bombardment and machine gun fire, traversed the front of his advancing forces, gave correct directions to his organization, commanders and led the first wave of the culminating attack which stormed and captured the town."

GERMAN TROOPS FIGHTING DESPERATELY AT BAPAUME

With the British Army in France, Aug. 27.—(By A. P.)—Large reinforcements are being thrown in by the Germans in the neighborhood of Bapaume, especially at the town itself. Although there is much confusion in the enemy ranks his resistance stiffened appreciably tonight.

The Germans have gone to the great lengths to hold their line here and have even armed and thrown into the line bandmen and men from the transport service. There has been hard fighting in the vicinity of Thillois, south of Bapaume.

On the center of the battle front the battle is raging with greatly increased violence. The Germans are reported to be digging in along a line the general direction of which may be reckoned as starting at the north bank of the Somme to the rear of Guillemont and then northeast through Cincin. It is believed the enemy intends to make a desperate stand on this line.

also are in some force at Foucaucourt, which sticks forward in a salient that has gradually become most dangerous for the enemy.

There were vicious counter-attacks early this evening and in some places as must be expected, the British had to give ground slightly.

On the north the British withdrew to the west of Trones Wood. The British also gave up their foothold on Mailthorn Farm, near Guillemont, east of Albert. South of the Scarpe, the British, at last reports, had gained possession of Fontaine Itz Croisilles.

COLLISION OF FREIGHT AND PASSENGER CARS

Reading, Pa., Aug. 27.—Two persons were killed and fourteen injured late this afternoon when a trolley freight car and a passenger coach on the Loyaltown division of the Reading Transit and Light Company collided head-on near the Carsonia Inn, about three miles from this city.

The injured were brought to hospitals in this city in automobiles, where it was found several were painfully but none fatally hurt. The accident occurred on a sharp curve, and it is believed the signals failed to work, which allowed both cars in the block.

CREW OF SCHOONER BIANCA PICKED UP

A Canadian Atlantic Port, Aug. 27.—The crew of the schooner Bianca was picked up at sea this afternoon and will be landed here some time tonight. No further details have been given out by the port authorities but it is believed to be another submarine outrage.

No Bargain Days.

Every day or so we see that the Crown Prince or somebody has ordered a certain section of the German Army to hold a specified point at all costs. In view of the fact that the designated points are not held we are inclined to believe that there are few bargain days on the German front.—Grand Rapids Press.

Over Their Heads, Perhaps.

D'Annunzio's most recent writings may not be listed among the best sellers, but there is no denying that they are having very extensive circulation in the highest circles and are widely read even in Vienna and other enemy cities.—New York Sun.

Let's Pick a Few More.

Now that the returns are all in, it is apparent that the Marine pocket was not empty after all. The allies

captured an immense quantity of booty and at least 30,000 prisoners. Which is going some when it comes to rifling an empty pocket.—Johnstown Democrat.

Their Specialty.

German papers say that American soldiers are better on offensive than on defense. Well, that's the kind of war we intended to wage when we went over.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Ought to Be Satisfied.

Germany wanted 30 days in which to win the war, and she has had four years. What more could she ask of Destiny?—Toledo Blade.

Information Wanted.

What we want to know right now is whether the 27-year jail sentence of the I. W. V. include hard labor or not?—Washington Post.



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